**English Language Arts 8**

Mrs. T. McGill Room M511

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Welcome to eight grade English Language Arts! By the end of this year, you will be able to read, comprehend and analyze a variety of literature. You will be able to write persuasive, descriptive, expository and comparison/contrast papers. You will be able to research a topic, write a report and present a speech to an audience. In addition, you will have an equal emphasis on grammar, vocabulary and will be able to discuss current world events through watching CNN student news. English Language Arts 8 is a serious academic class in which you should strive for success. I strongly encourage you to complete assignments in a timely manner and ask for help when needed. Multiple strategies and assessments will be used to measure your academic growth. We will have tests, quizzes, skits, group assignments and projects. As your teacher, my goal is to help you to master this course. Please help me by doing your part.

**Educational Philosophy**

I believe that all children can learn given the right environment and a caring teacher. I have a passion for teaching and helping others to accomplish academic achievements and goals. Most of all, I am a “lover of literature” who has an uncanny way of bringing books to life in hopes of making a difference for a child.

**Grading Criteria:**

1. Tests/Projects 35%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Class work 25%
4. Homework 10%
5. Participation/Conduct 10%

**Make-up Work**

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Each time a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to obtain the missed assignments. Short term assignments (assignments completed in class on day of student’s absence) must be completed upon day of return. Any **long term assignments** that were given prior to the student’s absence remain due on the scheduled date. **If the student is absent on the due date, the assignment must be sent to me via email or delivered by a trusted person. If the assignment is not received on the due date, it is considered late.**

**Late Work Policy**

Students are strongly encouraged to complete and submit assignments on time. The **maximum** grade that a student will be able to receive on any late assignment **is an 80**. All late assignments **must be turned in two (2) weeks prior to the end of the grading period** in order to receive credit at all.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations**

1. Arrive on time to class.
2. Come prepared with all materials needed for class.
3. Respect yourself and others.
4. Raise your hand to be called upon to talk.
5. Clean up after yourself in the classroom.

**Negative Consequences (for not following rules)**

1. Conference between student and teacher
2. Phone call home to parents
3. 45 minute detention after school **(Given During Team Detention Day)**
4. Administrative referral **(if needed)**

**Classroom Rewards (given for academic success/positive behavior)**

1. Class games/friendly competitions
2. “Good News” phone call to adult of your choice
3. Treats/small tokens of appreciation

**Course Standards**

You may review the standards for this course at the DoDEA website: <http://www.dodea.edu/curriculum/standards.cfm>

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Please review this syllabus with your parent/guardian, have it signed and returned.

Student Name (print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Contact#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_